

# STU student marches for peace in Central America

by KAYE MACPHEE  
Brunswickan staff

Dawn Leavitt, a second year Arts student at Saint Thomas University will be taking part in a march for peace in Central America next month.

People from all parts of the world will meet in Panama early in December to begin the seven-country march. Following the Pan American highway the participants will walk through Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. The march is expected to take 44 days.

Leavitt's participation in the march will take in three countries. "I leave Bangor, Maine on December 24th and will be joining the march in Nicaragua, go on to Honduras and then to El Salvador. On January 6th I'll fly home from El Salvador."

Participants are going at their own risk; "The organizers cannot guarantee our safety. There could be problems at the Nicaraguan-Honduran border," Leavitt said.

The decision to partake was not arrived at lightly; "I am a single parent, and that is a

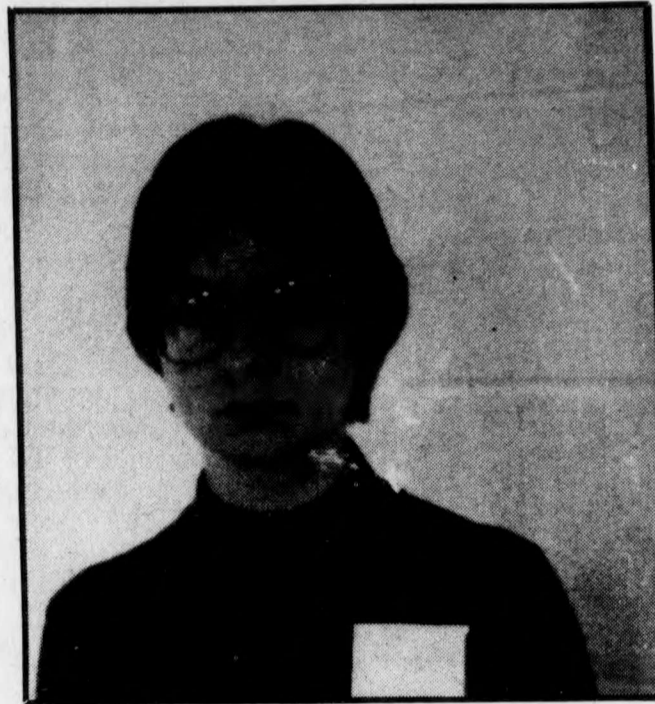


Photo by Dolores Allison

serious consideration," Leavitt.

Leavitt's interest in Central America began with her work at the local chapter of Amnesty International.

"I heard about the march through The Women in Peace conference in Halifax last June but only learned a few weeks ago that I could get funding to take part in it," said Leavitt.

Leavitt said her original sponsor was Project Ploughshares-Fredericton.

Later the Unitarian Fellowship, the Spanish

department at STU and the Fredericton chapter of Voice of Women also added their financial support

shows that people outside of Central America are not in favor of the U.S. policy being imposed on them."

Leavitt is also taking part in the fund raising. She will have display table in the SUB next Wednesday. "I'll have information concerning the march and will sell buttons for donations," she said.

The purpose of the Peace March is to support Central American people in their struggle for peace, human rights, and self determination.

"The most important thing is that it is an active display of solidarity. The Central American people are very happy about it; the moral support is welcome," said Leavitt. "It

The march is being organized by the International Coordinating Committee in Norway and solidarity groups, peace groups, church, labour, and students organizations are among those supporting and participating in the march.

*Editors note: Anyone wishing to financially assist Dawn Leavitt, please contact the Unitarian Fellowship House on Charlotte Street or send a cheque payable to THE Unitarian Fellowship (specifying on the cheque: Peace March.)*

## Government inaction frustrating

by SCOTT LUTES  
Brunswickan staff

'Animals can be trained'. When will my son not be treated as an animal but as a human being?

This question was posed by a frustrated parent to a government panel at the recent provincial conference organized by the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons, held in Fredericton recently.

No one from the government panel offered any comment.

The panel was made up of government officials and included Jean-Pierre Ouellette Minister of Education, and Joseph Mombourquette Minister of Labour.

As part of his presentation Hatfield read a proclamation designating 1983 to 1992 as The Decade of Disabled Persons.

Most of the ideas and proposals within the proclamation were a reiteration of the 1981 UN proclamation.

The central aspects of the reiteration involve 'objectives, ideals and principles required to meet the needs of people with disabilities.' To many in attendance most elements mentioned are still required.

Also released was the Action Plan for The Disabled in New Brunswick.

The action plan is an expansion of the ideas revealed in the proclamation. Action implies the definition of problem areas and the institution of guidelines said one participant.

The phrases that jump from the pages of the plan are 'official proclamations', 'identification of needs', and 'identification of a critical path he said.

Ambiguity in 'action' is the message implied and this plan is

to extend over the Decade of the Disabled he said.

Several people took advantage of an open session to express their opinions and ideas.

One participant raised questions concerning the government's ideological stand on education. The plans and actions of committees dealing with education refer to programs of 'training' he said.

He pointed out that the right to education implies more than just training. Education should entail more than an acquisition of manual skills.

Dissatisfaction with the government's failure to act was evident to many who attended the conference.

A participant said 'The consensus of those in attendance was that the government's stand consisted of techniques of deferral rather than action.'

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